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## Preventing Perchlorate Pollution Act Congresswoman Lois Capps

Drinking water sources for millions of Americans are contaminated with perchlorate, a toxic ingredient used in rocket fuel, ammunition, fireworks, highway safety flares, air bags and fertilizers. Perchlorate poses a variety of serious health risks relating to thyroid function, especially in newborns, children, and pregnant women. Exposure to perchlorate interferes with the thyroid gland's ability to produce hormones needed for normal prenatal development. This can cause both physical and mental retardation. Perchlorate has also been linked to thyroid cancer.

The Preventing Perchlorate Pollution Act seeks to establish a standard for perchlorate and honor the public's right-to-know requirement by developing policies that will protect the public's health.

### Establish Perchlorate Standard

- The bill would require EPA to set Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) drinking water standard for perchlorate by July 1, 2004. Under EPA's current schedule, 2006 is the earliest date a standard would be finalized.

### Require Community Right to Know and Retroactive Disclosure

- The bill would require anyone who stored or transported more than 375 pounds of perchlorate from January 1, 1950 to report on such activities to the U.S. EPA no later than June 1, 2005. Failure to report would result in fines. This does not apply to facilities that store perchlorate for retail or law enforcement purposes.
- The bill would require anyone who discharges perchlorate into U.S. water to report the discharge, its volume, monitoring methods, and remedial actions to the U.S. EPA. Failure to do so would result in fines. EPA must publish this information in the Federal Register beginning on or before June 1, 2005, and on an annual basis thereafter.
- The bill would require U.S. EPA to annually publish a list of perchlorate storage facilities beginning on or before June 1, 2005.
- The bill would require all fees and fines to be deposited into a loan fund for public water suppliers and private well owners to pay for clean water when their water is shut down because of perchlorate contamination.

For further information, contact Jonathan Levenshus (Rep. Lois Capps) at 225-3601.

Perchlorate - legislation

Handout from Jonathan Levenshuss,

Staff for Rep Lois Capps

To Region 9 Superfund Staff

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